

Telecom Centres in Karnataka

367. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Telecom Centres working in Karnataka, as on June 30, 1997 District-wise;

(b) whether the Government have given any directions for operation of Telecom Centres for twenty four hours;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to open some more Telecom Centres in Karnataka during 1997-98; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) District-wise number of Telecom. Centres working in Karnataka as on 30th June, 1997 is given below :

District	No. of Telecom Centres
Bangalore	02
Belgaum	08
Dharwad	07
Mysore	01
Dakshina Kannada	01
Bellary	01
Gulbarga	01
Raichur	01
Total	22

(b) to (d) No, Sir. No specific directions have been given. However, where there is public demand and financial viability, the Telecom. Centres are kept open for 24 hours.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. During the year 1997-98, four telecom centres are planned to be opened one each in Dakshina Kannada, Dharwad, Mysore and Bangalore Districts.

Allotment of Funds by Doordarshan for Production of Tele-films

368. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure for allotment of funds by Doordarshan for production of tele-films under Commissioned Category which are passed/sanctioned and Budget allotted by concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India;

(b) the time taken by Doordarshan for allocation of funds for such telefilms;

(c) the number of cases in which sanction letters were issued by Doordarshan on March 31, 1997 but the funds not allotted upto June 15, 1997;

(d) the reasons for delay in allotment of funds; and

(e) the time by which the funds are likely to be allocated for production of such telefilms ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) The proposals received from concerned Ministries/Departments are placed before the Costing Committee of Doordarshan headed by DG, Doordarshan for allotment of funds. Funds to the producers of such telefilms are given keeping in view the budget details submitted by them alongwith their proposals and as approved by the Costing Committee.

(b) Funds are allocated as and when they are made available by the concerned Ministries/Departments.

(c) As per available records, no sanction was issued by Doordarshan on 31.3.1997.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Posting of Train Superintendents

369. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not selecting the trains to post train superintendents in North Frontier Railway;

(b) whether the Government are considering to select some trains of North Frontier Railway now;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) 50 trains on Indian Railways have been nominated for posting of train superintendents out of which 5 trains, viz, 4055/4056 Brahmaputra Mail, 5645/5646 Dadar-Guwahati Express, 6519/6520 Bangalore-Guwahati Express, 6321/6322 Trivandrum-Guwahati Express and 6313/6314 Cochin-Guwahati Express run on N.F. Railway.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Advertisement for Calling Tenders

370. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hyderabad Telecom Department has issued an advertisement in various editions of an English daily calling tenders for works worth lakhs of rupees;

(b) if so, whether the last date for submission of the tenders have already expired when the advertisement published;

(c) if so, whether it has been alleged that it was a pre-determined bid by the Telecom Department to allot civil works at various places in the State running into several lakhs of rupees to their own men;

(d) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted as to how tenders have given when the expiry date has already expired;

(e) if so, the outcome of the enquiry; and

(f) the action taken against those held responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Advertisements are issued to Newspapers of different languages such as English, and other languages with specific stipulations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. In specific circumstance, such as when a reasonable notice is not available between the date of publication in Newspaper and stipulated date of receipt of Tender requisite action is taken to consider postponing the date of receipt of tenders. Requisite Public Notifications are issued accordingly.

(d) to (f) In view of the reply to Para (a) to (c), this does not arise.

Subsidised STD Calls

371. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have subsidised the STD calls recently;

(b) if so, whether this facility is available to Armed forces and Para Military personnel posted in boarder districts of North Eastern Region;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Jawans are not able to avail of this facility due to lack of basic infrastructure in border districts; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make STD facilities available in border districts of North Eastern region keeping in view the hardships of Jawans ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir. STD Tariff was restructured with effect from 15.2.97 to ease the traffic congestion.

(b) and (c) The restructured STD tariff is applicable to the entire country including border districts of North Eastern Region.

(d) and (e) In the seven North Eastern States, Government have already taken action to provide STD to all the District Headquarters.

STD facility will be made available to all the Sub-Divisional Headquarters and Tehsil Headquarters with telephone exchanges in the border areas of the North Eastern States during 1997-99 subject to availability of equipment.

[Translation]

Halt of trains at Tundla Junction

372. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide a halt of Nilanchal Express at Tundla and Jaleshwar, Purva Express at Firozabad, Marudhar Express, Jodhpur Howrah Express and Vaishali Express at Tundla Junction, Jaleshwar Road Station and Firozabad Station (Uttar Pradesh) Keeping in view the demand of the public of those places;